

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Hilmar WECHSEL) Group Art Unit: 3687
)
Application No.: 10/787,206) Examiner: Oluseye Iwarere
)
Filed: February 27, 2004) Confirmation No.: 4681
)
For: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR)
MANAGING PRODUCT RETURNS)
USING DECISION CODES)

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Notice of Allowance including the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance which was mailed on November 9, 2011. Without withdrawing the allowed claims from issue, Applicant submits these comments.

The Examiner made characterizations and assertions about the claims and the related prior art in the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance. Although Applicant agrees with the Examiner's ultimate conclusions that the claims are patentable because the prior art does not disclose, teach, or suggest the features set forth in the claims, Applicant does not necessarily agree with each or every characterization and assertion contained in the Examiner's statement.

Furthermore, it is understood that the Examiner's characterizations were for purposes of referring to the references of record, and do not in any way imply that the claims are limited by words not actually present in the claims. Therefore, unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicant declines to subscribe to any statement or characterization contained in the Notice of Allowance and its accompanying Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

Should the Examiner disagree with the Applicant's comments on the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, in order to resolve such disagreement.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 22, 2011

By: /Saqib J. Siddiqui/
Saqib J. Siddiqui
Reg. No. 68,626